

Melody Allen: Artist Statement

The more I learn about bird migration, the more incredible it seems. I recently read “A World on the Wing” by Scott Weidensaul that was full of fascinating facts and intriguing information. With this subject so much on my mind, I wanted to pay tribute to our feathered friends by including them in this painting.

The technique I used for this piece was new and experimental for me, working on cradled board rather than paper. I first applied gesso to the board to give the surface a tooth to hold the particles of pastel and to create interesting texture. Next, I painted the sky and ground areas with washes of watercolor. On top of that I began building up layers of color and details with pastels. Finally, I sprayed the completed artwork with fixative to protect the surface since I chose not to frame the artwork behind glass.